

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-26 are pending in the case. Claims 21-26 are withdrawn herein with traverse in response to a restriction requirement.

Restriction Requirement:

In the present office, the Examiner has further grouped the claims as follows:

- I. Claim 1-20 "drawn to a mixture for etching/composition/product, classified in class 252, subclass 79.3"; and
- II. Claims 21-26 "drawn to a method for the removal of a portion of a dielectric, classified in class 438, subclass 706".

The Examiner has requested that Applicants make an additional election for those claims to be examined. In response, the Applicants have requested that claims in Group I, or claims 1-20, be elected with traverse for continued prosecution. As a result of this election, Applicants are withdrawing the claims in Group II but reserving their rights under 35 USC § 121 to file a divisional application or, alternatively, petition for rejoinder of the non-elected claims after completing the prosecution of the claims in Group I.

Applicants respectfully traverse the additional restriction requirement on the following basis. If the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. MPEP §803. Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no serious burden on the Patent Office to examine in this application all of the present claims because the subject matter of these claims is sufficiently related that a search of the claims is sufficiently related that a search of the claims in any one Group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other Group.

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Should the Examiner require any further information, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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